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Veronica Birkland

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October 22, 2004 08:21 PM

FCC Chairman Michael Powell
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Prioritize the Public Interest

Dear FCC Chairman Powell:

I oppose the FCC's proposed plans to award every U.S. television broadcaster a huge historic giveaway of the digital spectrum.

Under the proposal advanced by your Media Bureau, each TV station would be given increased market power by permitting them to simultaneously broadcast six (or more) channels. Cable companies would be required to provide the public access to all these new channels, owned by companies such as General Electric, Disney, Viacom, Sinclair and News Corp. Such a plan would greatly increase the power of these media conglomerates. Moreover, you and your Commission have failed so far to clarify how these broadcasters should serve the "public interest" in the digital age. Your support of such a give-way in the absence of a policy that protects the public is an abrogation of your responsibility as Chairman of the FCC.

It is time that the Commission places the public's interests before those of the broadcasting industry. Broadcasters should be denied their request for multiple channel distribution on cable. (Docket #s98-120, 99-360).

Sincerely, *Veronica Birkland*

Veronica Birkland

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

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